



U.S. Department of Justice


Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

January 16, 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Robert Raben   
Assistant Attorney General

SUBJECT: Weekly Report for January 16, 2001 - January 19, 2001

The House and the Senate are in recess until January 20, 2001.

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Wen Ho Lee:** Draft responses to questions for the record from Senator Leahy, in follow up of the September 26 and 27 hearings, are being prepared by the Criminal Division. A draft response to the Intelligence Committees and the Senate Judiciary Committee on conditions of confinement is being finalized in consultation with the Marshals Service. Responses to document requests for sealed records and deliberative materials have been deferred while activities related to open matters in the case continue; Committee staff have been informed of this. Senator Specter's staff have requested access to the underlying documents used to prepare the Bellows report. Declassification of the Bellows report remains pending at FBI. Further hearings, if any, will not occur until after January 20. (Walter)

**THE WEEK IN REVIEW**

**Prison Drug Treatment:** On January 12, staff from the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and OLA met with staff for Senator Hatch to provide a briefing on the BOP drug treatment program. (Scott-Finan)

**Santo Daime Church:** Representatives of the Criminal, Civil, Environment and Natural Resources and Civil Rights Divisions, OTJ, OPD, OLC, DEA, EOUSA Districts of New Mexico and Oregon, OLA, ONDCP, and the Departments of State, Treasury and Health and Human Services met on January 2, 2001, with Michael Greenberger, Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General, chairing the meeting, in a continuing effort to develop an appropriate response to claims raised by representatives of the Santo Daime Church that their use of a "tea" in religious ceremonies of the church is permissible under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) of 1993. The tea contains DMT, a schedule I controlled substance. RFRA continues to apply to federal government functions. We have received comments and inquiries on this issue from Senators Hatch, Kennedy and Smith, and from Representative DeFazio. Another meeting took place on January 3. DASG Greenberger and other Department officials met separately last week with attorneys for the Daime Church, and the Union Vegetal Church (which has sought similar relief in Federal District Court in New Mexico), to discuss factual and legal issues related to their claims and requests. (Owen)